



Village of Northbrook

Board of Trustees

AD HOC DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE AGENDA

**TERRACE ROOM
VILLAGE HALL, 1225 CEDAR LANE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022**

IMPORTANT NOTICE: AD HOC DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE MEETING - VIA WEBEX VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Muriel Collison	Trustee	Present	
Heather Ross	Trustee	Present	
Joy Ebhomielien	Trustee	Present	

Also present were President Ciesla, Trustee Hebl, Trustee Israel, Trustee Pepoon.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

None.

3. DISCUSSION TOPICS

A. Discussion Regarding Committee Scope, Parameters, and 2022 Priorities in Downtown Northbrook

Village Manager Pavlicek stated tonight's meeting would focus on 2022 priorities for downtown Northbrook. She asked if membership favored naming the Northbrook central business area within the Village a "downtown" or an "uptown" destination. Manager Pavlicek explained the definition of placemaking in city government. Urban design and destination design are part of placemaking. Placemaking is the process of creating quality places that people want to live, work, play, and learn in. Collectively all the individual actions support the downtown. Six topics will be covered. These include 1) Cedar Lane, 2) outdoor dining, 3) additional lighting, 4) public art, 5) the Pop-Up Patch and a 5) springtime event.

A series of GIS slides were presented showing the current boundaries defined as the central business district of the Village. Some of the businesses and locations that are anchored to Northbrook's downtown district include Walgreens, Jacob's Townhomes, private parking lots, Sunset Foods, restaurants, Metra Station, Library, Village Hall, shopping centers, Grainger, Park District Golf Course, GBN High School.

Assistant Village Manager Madeline Farrell stated that some of the operating costs for items discussed tonight, such as public events, outdoor dining, and art, will be included in the budget process that will come before the Board in March. Larger public infrastructure projects and streetscape will need to have bonds issued.

1) Cedar Lane

Village Engineer Matt Farmer presented five potential possible options for Cedar Lane redevelopment from Cherry to Walters. Drawings were developed from conversations at an open house held on June 10, 2021 and a COW meeting held on August 10, 2021. The majority of the work is in front of the Village Hall and Library. There were concerns of loss of street parking from the residents near Walters and concerns regarding tree removal. There was support for sidewalks and multi-use paths on Cedar Lane. There were concerns of high speeding motorists on Cedar and safety concerns for crossing the street at Cherry and Cedar Lane. There were financial concerns for the project.

Mr. Farmer stated that none of the options for Cedar Lane presented tonight include costs for lighting and landscaping. Sustainability and placemaking will be selected after an option is selected. Pros and Cons were provided for each option.

Option 1 includes reconstruction of parking lanes on the west side of Cedar, no sidewalk or multi-use path on the west side, loss of 4 parking spaces, no change to lane configuration, no tree impact west of Cedar - total cost \$650,000.

Option 2 includes the same design as Option 1 but adding a sidewalk from Center to Cherry on the west side, no multi use path, loss of 22 parking spaces, adding pedestrian crossing opportunities at the Village Hall and the Library, all way stop at Cherry Lane, no tree impact west of Cedar, - total cost \$850,000.

Option 3 includes the same design as Option 2 but adding 5 ft. green space medians on Cedar Lane, tree impact on west side of Cedar - total cost \$855,000.

Option 4 includes a swerve in the road design and includes a multi-use path 8 foot wide, pedestrian crossings at Village Hall and Library, all way stop at Cherry Lane, parking in front of the Library, loss of 13 parking spots, tree removal west side in front of Library - total cost \$1.4 million. This was the closest to the presented option at the June 10, 2021 Public Informational Open House.

Option 5 is a no build option. Surface patching on Cedar would still take place to maintain the road. An all-way stop at Cherry Lane and Cedar could be added.

Mr. Farmer stated that final design for Options 1-4 would take place in 2022. Construction would take place in 2023. Construction timing would also need to accommodate any upcoming events. A Right of Way acquisition would be needed from Greenbriar School.

Trustee Collison stated that she favors Option 2 or 5. She wants to do what is only necessary until we get further along but is in favor of a stop sign at Cherry and Cedar.

Trustee Ross asked for an estimated cost for Option 5. Mr. Farmer answered that Option 5 would cost approximately \$20-\$30K. The figure included sidewalk issues. Trustee Ross does not like the loss of parking for residents. She has mixed feelings but favors Options 2 or 5.

Trustee Ebhomieien favors sustainability and is looking for minor improvements that will make the area more attractive and bring more people to the area. She favors Option 5.

Trustee Israel favors Option 4. He wants bicycle accommodation and does not want a median, which is Option 3.

Trustee Hebl wants the crosswalks from the Village and Library and Option 3. She does not want to lose parking, so Option 3 without the sidewalk on the west side. She favors a stop sign at Cherry and Cedar with a push button blinking light to cross.

Trustee Pepoon wants an all stop sign at Cherry and Cedar immediately. He favors Option 4 as a complete street.

President Ciesla agrees that crosswalks are an important safety issue. She is open to the idea of Option 3. She would like Cedar Lane to be appealing and inviting. She would like action taken.

Trustee Collison asked Mr. Farmer to come back with narrowed options adding crosswalks and a few things to make the road visually appealing. There is no interest in Option 1. There is some interest in Option 2, 3, 4, and 5. She asked for fine tuning on Options 2 and 4. Some of the enhancements are wanted sooner versus later. Trustee Ross asked if Option 5 could include medians, cross walks, beautification and stop sign at Cherry and Cedar.

Trustee Collison stated that the majority of people view the center of Northbrook as a downtown. Going forward the Board will use the designation "downtown" and promote "Downtown Northbrook".

2) Outdoor Dining

Director Hamill provided a summary on the 2021 outdoor dining along Shermer Road that included an expanded walkway and room for outdoor dining with temporary parking closures.

Consensus is to repeat last year's outdoor dining plan but bring it up a notch with earlier communication and collaboration with the restaurants. The Board would like to move away from the bright orange street barriers that were used in 2021.

Trustee Collison asked the Board to consider if there are any other areas in the downtown to investigate and implement a similar style.

3) Additional Lighting

Trustee Collison asked the Board to consider if they favored ball string lights that crisscrossed on Meadow Lane and or lighting on infrastructure such as the Cherry Lane underpass. Bridge lighting is programmable and includes colors. If the Board is in favor Public Works will bring back cost estimates by next month. Meadow Road is potentially more event focused; therefore the lighting desired could be permanent. The Board was in favor of warm lighting versus blue lighting.

4) Public Art

Trustee Collison asked the Board to consider public art that includes murals and 3d art structures in the downtown. She asked the Board to find examples where this would be appropriate.

5) Pop-Up Patch

Trustee Collison asked the Board to consider if they are still interested in supporting a Pop-Up Patch at Cherry and Meadow Road. She asked if the Board is interested in renewing the property contract and insurance for 2022. She asked the Board to draw up a list of their top event ideas for consideration.

6) Spring Event

Trustee Collison asked the Board to consider if they want to support a spring event and find partners to host the event.

Trustee Collison asked for feedback.

Trustee Collison would like to extend the definition of Downtown Northbrook to include Bussey Bank, 7-Eleven, the Grainger property and move towards the high school. The Board was in consensus to extend the definition of the downtown area. Everyone was in favor.

Trustee Collison would like to approach the restaurants that are committed to outdoor dining and provide Village assistance to make situations better. Trustee Collison gave the eating area next to Leonidas as an example. She would like the opportunity to have music piped in the downtown. She would like Public Works to investigate pricing. She would prefer money spent on permanent lighting on Meadow Road, additional lighting in the downtown, murals and 3d art along Meadow Road versus reconstruction of Cedar Lane.

Trustee Ross agrees with Trustee Collison.

Trustee Ebhomielien would like the park and the businesses on Shermer across from Village Green Park treated with planters and lighting.

Trustee Hebl suggests having a dialog with the businesses and restaurant owners on the type of lighting desired.

Trustee Pepoon would like the Village Green Park to have more lighting and a pop out presence.

President Ciesla wants the lighting installed for this summer and would like a discussion on timing. President Ciesla is working with the Park District in regards to lighting Village Green Park.

Consensus is that lighting is the first priority.

Trustee Collison suggests working with the Historical Society and Arts Commission in seeking locations for signage and public art. She would like recommendations for specific locations for the art by the next ad-hoc meeting. The Board was in consensus and favored the idea of attractive signage. It was suggested that Board members drive through Mundelein for an example.

President Ciesla suggested that there is an opportunity for sponsorship for the murals and possibly art. Many of our local businesses are philanthropic.

Trustee Collison stated that the games at the Pop-Up Patch were a great hit last year but more substantial games are desired moving forward. Local music schools are interested in performance opportunities at Pop-Up Patch events.

Trustee Collison suggested the opportunity for a Cinco de Mayo event. President Ciesla suggested adding a possible Sip and Shop at Northbrook Court.

Trustee Ross was in favor of the Pop-Up Patch events and suggested the Board investigate Taste of Lincolnwood and consider a Taste of Northbrook event.

Consensus is to work with an outside company to help with events.

Trustee Hebl suggested that the Metra parking lot is dead space on the weekends and should not be forgotten.

Trustee Pepoon agreed with Trustee Hebl that the train station is an opportunity for more pickle ball courts.

Trustee Ebhomielien would like to make the Metra parking lot more attractive and greener.

President Ciesla would like the Northbrook gateway signs refurbished.

Trustee Collison called for another Ad-Hoc Downtown Meeting to be held on February 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

4. REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

5. ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion was made by Trustee Ross and seconded by Trustee Ebhomielien to adjourn the meeting. By roll call, the motion was unanimously carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.